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May 18, 1981  
No. 16

Joint Council and JC Committees Meet

The month of April was a busy one for the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences and its committees.

John Robins, Dean of Agriculture at Washington State University, and I co-chaired the quarterly meeting of the Joint Council here in Washington April 15 and 16. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the state of research in water resources for agriculture. Also discussed were planning and coordination of the Council's two other priority areas for this year: energy and productivity.

Terry Kinney, SEA-AR administrator, and Mark Buchanan, ESCOP Director for the Western Region, co-chaired the National Agriculture Research Committee meeting held April 14 and 15 in Washington. The committee adopted a charter statement and a program of work, and received reports from regional representatives concerning research planning in each of the four regions. The committee's next meeting will be October 1 and 2, also in Washington.

The April 10 meeting in Chicago of the National Extension Committee was highlighted by the election of the Executive Committee. The new Executive Committee members, who will serve for one year, are: Bud Auburn, chair; Dan Pfannstiel, vice-chair; and Mary Nell Greenwood, secretary. Subcommittees on computer technology, energy funding, and research funding also were established. The committee's next meeting will be held in Kansas City, Mo., on June 18 and 19.

Also held in Chicago was the April 9 meeting of the Higher Education Committee. Representing SEA at the meeting was Lark Carter, assistant administrator for higher education. Ed Glazener, North Carolina State University was elected committee chair, and Rupert Seals, University of Nevada-Reno, was elected vice-chair. The committee established two working groups: one on the assessment of curricula in the food and agricultural sciences; and one on food and agriculture educational information systems.



### Workshop on Plant Germplasm Held in Peoria; Mission Statement Formulated

A National Workshop on Plant Germplasm was held in Peoria, Ill. on March 9-12, 1981. Participants included scientists from the Federal, State and private sectors. Many important issues dealing with the functions and policies of the National Plant Germplasm System were discussed. One such issue was an agreed statement of the mission of the NPGS:

The National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) provides genetic diversity necessary to improve crop productivity and to reduce genetic vulnerability in future food and agriculture development, not only in the United States but for the entire world. The NPGS acquires, maintains, evaluates and makes readily accessible to plant scientists a wide range of genetic diversity in the form of seed and clonal germplasm of crops and potential new crops.

### Twelve SEA Staffers Selected for SES Development Program

Twelve SEA employees will join 37 other Department employees in a program to train people to enter the Senior Executive Service (SES).

The SEA staffers are: Richard Bachman, AM-ASD; Elizabeth Davis, CR; Maurice Frere, AR-SR; Marvin Konyha, JPE; Richard Murrman, AR-WR; Daniel A. Niffenegger, AR-NPS; Michael D. Christensen, AM-PD; Gary Evans, JPE; Phillip Kerney, AR-NER; Wilda H. Martinez, AR-NPS; Carlton Ranney, AR-SR; and Peter VanSchaik, AR-WR.

The SEA employees and other USDA staffers entering the program were selected from a field of about 120 applicants.

The 18-month program includes formal courses and seminars, developmental assignments, and individual projects. While in the program, the employees will continue to perform their regularly assigned duties.

### USDA, SEA Awards Ceremonies Scheduled

The 1981 USDA Honor Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Departmental Auditorium, 12th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

The Director's Awards ceremony will be held the next day, May 29, at 9:30 a.m. in the Administration building patio. The ceremony will include a reception for the winners of both the USDA and Director's Awards.



### Louisiana Extension Agent Wins Rockefeller Award

John D. Andrews, county agent for Morehouse Parish in northeast Louisiana, is one of two 1981 winners of a \$10,000 Winthrop Rockefeller Award for Distinguished Rural Service.

Mr. Andrews was presented his award at a Washington ceremony on May 13. The award was funded by a grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust as a memorial to the late Arkansas governor.

Employed by the Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service, Mr. Andrews taught small-scale farmers how to switch from producing cotton to producing more profitable vegetable crops. In 1972, he helped area farmers start a farmers' market. The market is now used by approximately 400 families who sell \$450,000 to \$700,000 worth of produce each year.

### New Tuskegee President Named

Benjamin F. Payton, program officer at the Ford Foundation, has been named president of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, effective August 1. He succeeds President Luther H. Foster, who is retiring after 28 years as head of Tuskegee.

Dr. Payton is a graduate of South Carolina State College and holds advanced degrees from Yale, Columbia, and Harvard. A former president of Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., he has been with the Ford Foundation since 1972.

### Soil/Water Workshop Publishes Summary

Last February more than 100 scientists and leaders met in Madison, Wis., to determine what research is needed to preserve the nation's soil and water resources. The results of that session have been collected in a 35-page booklet called "Soil and Water Resources: Research Priorities for the Nation."

The booklet contains reports from specialists in water resources; land; humid regions; arid and semi-arid regions; policy; forest land; rangeland; urban and recreational lands; and drastically disturbed lands. The reports enabled workshop participants to identify six areas where more research is needed: sustaining soil productivity; developing conservation technology; managing water in stressed environments; protecting water quality; improving and implementing conservation policy; and assessing soil and water resources.

Single copies of the publication are available for \$1 from the Soil Science Society of America, 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, Wis., 53711. Orders of 25 or more copies are available for 50 cents per copy.





### Survey Shows Drop in Enrollment at NASULGC Institutions

A summary of a survey of agricultural enrollment at member institutions of NASULGC was distributed at the Northeast Regional meeting of Deans and Directors of Resident Instruction in Agriculture. J. Robert Cooke, Director of Instruction, Cornell University, chairs the RICOP Enrollment and Placement Committee. The following is a quotation from Dr. Cooke's introductory summary:

The grand totals of the reported enrollment for Fall 1980 were 4,055 for two year programs; 92,833, undergraduates; 20,363, graduate students. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 4,159; 97,177; and 21,267, respectively.

When the 59 institutions which reported undergraduate enrollment data for both years are compared, the apparent downward shift is approximately 2.5%; the corresponding drop was about 3% for the previous year. Clearly a downward national trend is developing.

The drop appears to be spread throughout the nation with 34 institutions reporting decrease, while 24 showed an increase.

### Texas Extension Service to Hold Rancher Roundup

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service will hold an International Rancher Roundup in Del Rio from August 10 to August 14. Headlining the meeting will be some of the ranching industry's best known speakers from the southwestern United States, Mexico, and several other foreign countries. Among the topics to be studied are international trade, Mexican-American agricultural independence, and plans for market development and expansion. Concurrent sessions will be held on procedures for working quarter horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, and range and wildlife. A session on sub-surface mineral management and mineral lease agreements will be conducted. The meeting will be capped off with two day-long ranch tours.

Further information is available from the International Rancher Roundup, P.O. Drawer 1849, Uvalde, TX 77801.

### ASAE Publishes Crop Production Proceedings

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers has published the proceedings of the Society's Conference on Crop Production with Conservation in the 80's. The Conference was held this past December.

The 29 papers presented to the conference cover needs for production and conservation; tillage systems and equipment; conservation tillage; pest control with conservation tillage; soil conservation practices; and energy conservation.

The book is available for \$27.50 (\$22.50 for ASAE members) from ASAE, P.O. Box 410, St. Joseph, MI 49085.



### Animal Agriculture Forum Meets

Representatives of the poultry, beef, dairy, sheep, and swine industries along with members of professional societies representing animal, meat, and veterinary sciences met with me on May 7. Topics discussed were USDA proposals for research and extension priorities for the FY 1983 budget. Current congressional activity on animal welfare issues was also discussed.

### Monograph Covers Irrigation State-of-the-Art

The practice of irrigation, which 4,000 years ago enabled civilization to establish permanent settlements, becomes continually more important in meeting today's needs to conserve water while increasing crop yields.

Marvin Jensen, national research program leader in water management, SEA-AR, Beltsville, has brought together a monograph, published by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, covering the many facets involved in designing and operating engineering systems. We expect both graduate engineering students and practicing engineers to find this monograph a useful reference. Copies are available from the ASAE, P.O. Box 410, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

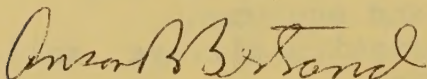
### USDA's Byssinosis Research Aired on Cable TV

Cable News Network (CNN) recently visited the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, La., where they filmed a two- or three-part piece on USDA's research to determine the cause of byssinosis.

Jerry Lidell, CNN medical correspondent, and his two-man crew interviewed Ralph J. Berni, who directs our byssinosis research at the Center. They also filmed our textile mill and laboratory research work on this sensitive and crucial subject. CNN video tapes news feature stories that cable TV stations purchase for airing. The byssinosis story will be aired nationally during the coming weeks.

### Oklahoma-Texas AR Area Expanded

On April 1, 1981, the SEA/AR Subtropical Texas Area became part of the Oklahoma-Texas area. J. R. Johnston was appointed the director of the newly-merged area. Edgar Taylor, former director of the Subtropical Texas Area, has joined the staff of the Administrator of the Southern Region.



ANSON R. BERTRAND  
Director  
Science and Education







